Government have decided to permit establishment of mutual funds in the private sector. A comprehensive set of prudential guidelines for the development and regulation of all mutual funds which invest primarily in the capital market and for ensuring investor protection, has been issued on February 14, 1992. The regulatory framework under these guidelines includes inter alia authorisation of Mutual Funds by the Securities and Exchange Board of India on the basis of certain eligibility criteria, restrictions on their business activities, disclosure and accounting requirements and penal provisions for violation of these guidelines.

Third World Insurance Congress

*264. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the first ever Third World Insurance Congress was held at New Delhi on February 17, 1992;

(b) if so, the main topics discussed therein; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Broadly, the following topics were discussed:

1. Regional Co-operation
2. Life Insurance
3. Agricultural Insurance
4. Insurance and Investment
5. Reinsurance
6. Role of Supervisory Authority in Insurance, Reinsurance and Security Analysis
7. Management, Education, Training and Personnel Aspects.

(c) The resolutions passed by the Third World Insurance Congress relating to Strengthening of Supervisory Authorities in Changing Economies; Need for Insurance Education and Training; Agricultural Insurance; Regional Reinsurance Exchange; and Training Forums for Supervisory Authority have been noted by the Government as well as the General Insurance Corporation of India for action at the appropriate stage.

[*Translation*]

Smuggling of Sandal Wood

2779. SHRI BARE LAL JATAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether instances of smuggling of sandal wood from Ujjain to foreign countries have come to the notice of the Government during 1992;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantity of sandal wood seized and the details of the persons involved in such smuggling activities; and

(d) the action taken or proposed to be taken against the guilty persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (d). The jurisdictional Customs authorities have not reported any instance of smuggling of sandal wood from Ujjain to foreign countries in the recent past.